

BUMPS AND JINKS.

They Discourse on the Calathumpian Party.

Refer to an Insurance Man—Who Parallels Them With Biographical Facts.

The ADVERTISER special reporter was prospecting for an item, when he spied Bumps and Jinks coming out of Cunha's wiping their mouths with their elbows. The reporter called up to them just as Jinks said: "Say, Bill, did you see that Calathumpian business in the Bulletin?" "New," said Bumps. "don't read the Bulletin; used to, but it went to seed and anonymous squibs. What's the Calathumpian business anyhow?" "Oh, some feller is just givin' the Government hall Columbia happy land!"

"What does he say? How does he get into 'em?"

"Oh," says Jinks, "he's a smart one—he's just been a studin' up their pedigrees, and he's found out that every man jack of 'em is a Boston born eater, or comes from thereabouts, and they won't give an office to anybody who don't produce a family Bible showing that his great grandfather came over on the Mayflower, or fought, bled and died, or can away, or something or other, at Bunker's Hill; and that all of 'em that's not parsons, and they pretty nearly all is, is members of Fort Street Church, and that nobody that isn't one of 'em has got a show to smell a five cent piece out of the Treasury; an' all the other nationalities they've just got on their ear and 'e joined Dan Lyons' party, and are going to knock the Gov'ment higher than Gilroy's kite at the next election. I'm on my way now to ask Dan to let me get into bed with him and have some kind of an office. Come along and I'll speak to him about you and perhaps he'll make you something or other."

"Hold on," said Bumps, "let's go slow on this. If those is facts, Dan's got the bugle on 'em and no mistake; but before I change my politics I want to know what the facts and prospects is."

"Oh, the facts is all right; I ain't a pedigree sharp myself, as I haven't lived long in the country; but if you want bed rock on 'pedigrees, there's Father Cartwheel can just talk 'em off to you like a walkin' dictionary—names, dates and all. Just come over into his office and I'll let on that I want to get my life insured for \$47,000 and don't know whether to go to him or Beretania Street, Blinster, and I can pump more pedigree out of him in five minutes than you can pick up from the rest of the town in a week."

This proposition was agreed to, and the two friends sauntered into Mr. C.'s new office, which by the way is about the noblest in town, and Jinks opened the conversation with: "Mr. Cartwheel, all things is transitory and life is but a fleeting shadow, and I might get married sometime, and I might have a baby, and I might go up salt creek all of a sudden, and then who'd take care of the widder and the kid? So, says I to my self, says I, I'll just look into this insurance business and prepare for emergencies."

Mr. C.—That's right, sir. Life insurance is the chief end of man. A man who so far forgets the duties of a citizen as to fail to insure his life is an enemy of society, sir. The Fairplay Life Assurance Society of the United States, sir, is the leading insurance company in the world, sir.

Jinks.—Is that so? Why, I was over to Mr. Bluster's talkin' about insurance just now, and he said that the Buncombe Life Insurance Company was the best and that the Fairplay was a kind of one horse company.

Mr. C.—One horse company! Why, sir, the Fairplay has a paid up capital of \$973,468,719,583,631.27 and put out 439,974,738 new policies last year; and the assets are so big that 453 clerks, each with a patent adding machine, haven't been able to figure them up for 1888 yet.

Jinks.—My eye; don't say so! Company belongs in Boston, don't it? Everything in this country comes from Boston, Gov'ment and all.

Mr. C.—That's where you show your ignorance, sir. The Fairplay does not belong in Boston, neither did the Gov'ment come from there.

Jinks.—Why, W. L. Green is from Boston, isn't he?

Mr. C.—No, sir. He was born on the 17th day of July, 1777, at half-past 6 a. m., at Ballywaggon-Fine in the northern corner of Kent, England, and came here in 1814, the year after I did, and has lived here ever since, sir.

Jinks.—You don't say so! Well, but there's Ashford, he come from Boston.

Mr. C.—Well, I like that, Ashford? Why he's another Britisher. Born in Canada—both of 'em—and V. V. used to shed his gore right straight along as high private in the rear rank of the regular British army.

Jinks.—Well, Thurston came from Boston, or his father did, which is the same thing.

Mr. C.—That's where you are off again, Thurston is a straightout Kanaka, was born in Honolulu and

his father was before him—know them both since they were boys.

Jinks.—But Austin did.

Mr. C.—Young man, you make me tired. Perhaps you'd like to give me some more points on pedigrees; perhaps you want to tell me that the Auditor-General and the Postmaster-General and the Collector of Customs and the Marshal are bean eaters.

Jinks.—Well, ain't they?

Mr. C.—Ain't they? Young man, a fellow that starts out to make points on other people on account of their nationality who don't know anything more about the facts than you do deserves to have his life insured in the Buncombe Insurance Co. I can't wish you any worse fate. Why, man! Austin was a whaling captain around these waters in 1848, and then afterwards he was a patent lawyer in New York, and never was in New England in his life except on a visit, and the Auditor-General is a Kanuck—a regular down east blue nose from the Bay of Fundy; and Wundenberg, he looks like a New England parson, and has a sanctimonious manner about him, but, bless you, he was born on Kauai. His mother was British and his father was first cousin to Bismarck, and when Bismarck gets through gobbling up Samoa you'll see him come waitin' into the harbor here and setting up Fred as Emperor of the Pacific for all I know. And then there's the Marshal—he's a Johnny Bull, and his clerk Sam Graham is another Kanuck from away back; and the Collector-General—he's a Yank with a vengeance. Great Scott, Cleghorn a Bostoner! Good honest Scotch oatmeal nourished his vitals when he was a squalling infant. He a bean eater! That's the best yet. And then there's Preston and Bickerton in the Supreme Court, and Captain Mist in the Foreign Office, and Robertson in the Finance Office, and Scrimgeour and Wodehouse in the Post Office, and Jim Smith in the Education Office, and Charlie Creighton in the Marshal's Office, and Tom Thrum and Malcolm Brown in the Registry Office, and Johnny Rothwell in the Interior Office, Britishers, sir, "blasted Britishers" every one of them; and there's Lucas in the water office—he's descended from an Irish King, and Sam, Chillingworth the new Deputy Sheriff of Maui and Langly in the Custom House, they are both Tipperary Penians; and Charlie Wilson—his grandfather was an English missionary down in Tahiti, and Pierre Jones in the Education Office—he's a Frenchman; and Atkinson, the Inspector General of Schools—he's English from the word go; and so is MacIntosh, the Principal of the Royal School; and Police Captain Larsen, he's from Copenhagen, of good old Danish pirate stock. Why, man, the Americans have put three-fourths of the capital and nine-tenths of the brains into this country, sir, and yet when it came to dividing up the offices the Britishers made such a scramble for office that the United States couldn't see the offices for the dust, and when the thing had kind of settled down, the American office-holders were scarcer than hens' teeth, and now you and the Bulletin and a few more scabby citizens are raising a howl because the American citizens have got anything to say at all. I'm an American citizen, right from the top of Bunker Hill monument, sir! And I'd have you to understand that, by Jimmie Blaine and the great American Eagle, I think it's about time Americans and the United States began to take hold and look out for their interests; and any man who has the face to come in here and tell me that this government has been captured by the Americans and that they are running it for their own benefit to the exclusion of other nationalities, in spite of the facts which are standing out as plain as the nose on your face, then I say that man has got such a supernatural development of gall that his hide isn't big enough to hold either digestion or brains, and he isn't a safe insurance risk, so you can just pick yourself up and dust out of here double quick!

Bumps had already got outside of the door when war was first declared, and Jinks now slowly tottered out, looking as though the street roller had run over him. As he reached the sidewalk Bumps smilingly greeted him and said, "Hurry up, Jinks, let's go around and see about those offices, or we may be too late."

Casting a look of unutterable reproach on his friend, Jinks huskily whispered: "Get me a 'spresso—take me home—ice on my head—Bismarck's cousin—Bunker Hill—bean eater! Oh h-h-h!" and with a long fluttering sigh like the rustle of a weary cockroach folding its tired wings, Jinks sank to the pavement in a dead faint.

Thus endeth the Calathumpian fiction.

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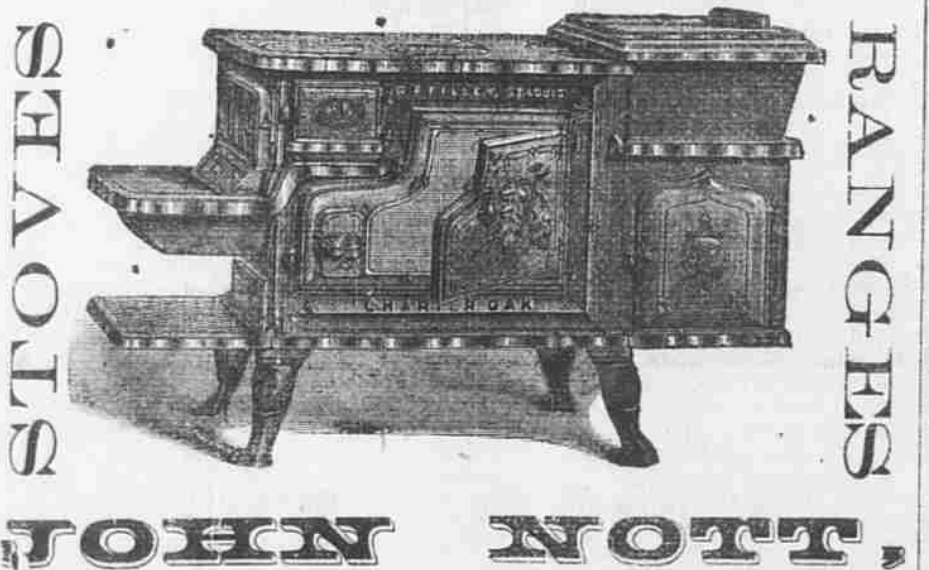
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